



Purpose and Need

Purpose and Need for the Federal Action

The Federal action to be taken by the Department of the Interior (Interior) is to implement provisions of the CVPIA. The general purposes of the CVPIA and the action proposed by Interior were identified by Congress in Section 3402. These purposes respond to a need to modify the existing water operations and physical facilities of the CVP.

Purpose and Use of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

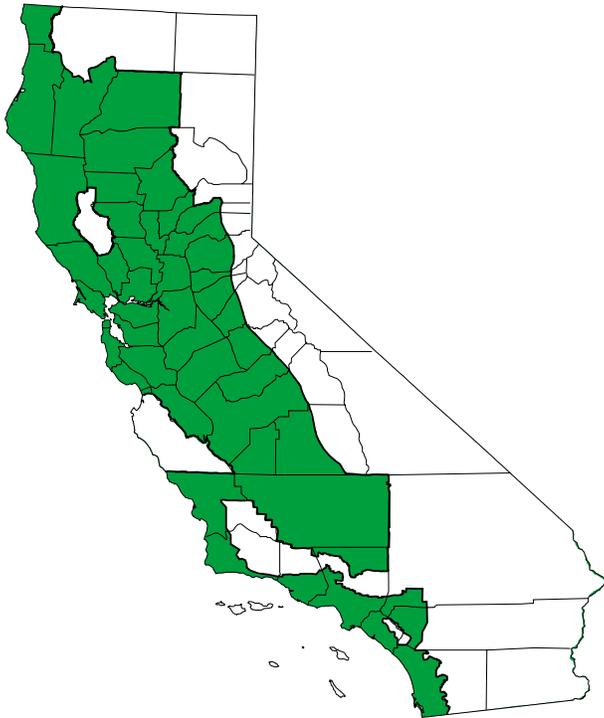
The purpose of the PEIS is to evaluate the impacts of implementing the CVPIA. The PEIS addresses the CVPIA's region-wide impacts on communities, industries, economies, and natural resources and provides a basis for selecting a decision among the alternatives. Because it is a programmatic document, the PEIS presents a system-wide analysis, rather than presenting detailed analyses of specific projects and sites.

While the Final PEIS examines the "big picture" of the CVPIA, a more detailed evaluation will also be done for many of the actions as they are implemented. The PEIS will be used as a basis for tiered environmental documentation to be completed prior to long-term implementation of some CVPIA provisions.

Provisions of the CVPIA that are addressed in this PEIS include:

- CVP water contract renewals
- Water transfers
- Tiered water pricing
- CVP operational changes
- Fish and wildlife water dedication and management
- Fish and wildlife water acquisitions
- Fish and wildlife habitat improvements
- Refuge water supplies
- Land retirement
- Facility modifications

The proposed action would not include programmatic implementation of increased instream fish flows in the Trinity River. That program is being analyzed in a separate and concurrent EIR/EIS. This PEIS includes assumptions about Trinity River flows solely for the purpose of programmatic analysis of the proposed action.



Definition of the Study Area and Study Period

Study Area

The Study Area for the PEIS includes the Central Valley and coastal areas in California. Criteria for defining the Study Area were developed through an extensive public scoping process and includes:

- Areas that include CVP facilities, CVP water users, or water rights holders affected by CVP operations.
- Areas that could be directly impacted by changes in CVP operations or actions implemented under the CVPIA.
- Areas that could be directly impacted by water transfer programs that involve CVP water users or CVP facilities.

Study Period

The PEIS analyzes projected conditions in the Year 2025 which allows for the period to complete the environmental documentation and the term of 25 years for the long-term water service contracts.

CVPIA PURPOSES (SECTION 3402)

- a.** to protect, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and associated habitats in the Central Valley and Trinity River basins of California;
- b.** to address impacts of the CVP on fish, wildlife, and associated habitats;
- c.** to improve the operational flexibility of the CVP;
- d.** to increase water-related benefits provided by the CVP to the State of California through expanded use of voluntary water transfers and improved water conservation;
- e.** to contribute to the State of California's interim and long-term efforts to protect the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary;
- f.** to achieve a reasonable balance among competing demands for use of CVP water, including the requirements of fish and wildlife, agriculture, and municipal, industrial, and power contractors.